



ACTIVITY REPORT 2022-2023





AIN
Africa Innovation Network

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OUR VISION

Africa Innovation Network is a network of experts dedicated to shaping a prosperous future for African cities. Our origin stems from the belief that cities engaged in inclusive and sustainable urban development must analyze current trends while anticipating the future. This requires multidisciplinary collaboration and harnessing digital opportunities. Our mission is to support African cities in creating inclusive, resilient, and sustainable living environments. We catalyze new approaches, promote innovation to address urban challenges, and support the creation of sustainable living frameworks. This commitment is reflected in our actions: bringing together experts, developing initiatives, and promoting knowledge sharing for sustainable African urban development.

OUR AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The initiatives undertaken to date focus on co-constructing sustainable thinking for African cities on one hand; and analyzing, understanding, and developing solutions on the other. They revolve around three main areas of activity:

Project development support: Providing technical assistance throughout the life cycle of projects focusing on key themes of African cities. This support takes various forms, including: advice; technical studies; fundraising; provision of resources to project stakeholders; etc. It extends to urban planning, architecture, design, and engineering.

Research and Development: Research on urban issues in Africa. The results are subsequently shared with urban development stakeholders in Africa in various formats such as training, magazines, scientific articles, documentary series, workshops, etc.

Communication, Audiovisual Production, and Territorial Marketing: Production of video capitalization materials, development of communication strategies, community management, branding, knowledge dissemination, etc. for the benefit of cities and partner entities.



Support for the Development of Projects

Development of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the City of Bamenda and the Sisia Neighborhood

 **Cameroon**

 **Support for the Development of Projects**

 **2022**



CONTEXT

The Participatory Slum Improvement Program (PSIP) is an initiative of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) in partnership with the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) Secretariat and funded by the European Commission (EC). This program aims to improve living conditions in slums and the sustainability of the cities concerned. In Cameroon, it is implemented in the municipalities of Yaoundé VI, Kribi, and Bamenda III. Regarding Phase III, it focuses on implementing priority projects identified in disadvantaged neighborhoods in collaboration with municipal authorities and the populations.

OUR INTERVENTION

The main objective of the consultation was to develop, in collaboration with the city of Bamenda and the Municipality of Bamenda III, a climate change adaptation strategy for the city of Bamenda and the Sisia neighborhood. We proceeded to: identify the needs of residents; prioritize and plan projects; and develop mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating project implementation. At the end of this project, our approach led to the production of a diagnostic report on vulnerabilities to climate change on one hand, and the development of a strategy report at the scale of Bamenda city and the Sisia neighborhood on the other hand.

IMPACT

Our intervention complemented the strategic urban planning framework and studies conducted under PSIP II, supporting interventions aimed at improving the living conditions of slum dwellers, particularly in the target district of Sisia.



DEVELOPPEMENT D'ACTIVITES

Exemples de Defis

- 20... stabilites
- 20... remanant avec des exemples
- 20... solidaires pour rendre l'
- 20... au niveau local
- 20... l'investissement disponible

Quels appuis des CL et autres (SFE ARD) aux acteurs éco de vos tentatives ??? / Tech Subventions

Mette l'accent sur le transfert* des produits du territoire (Ex: palade d'olive au Mali Babel = fédération de femmes de Babel qui cultivent en plus des agrumes (Ex: 18 000 de la commune un terrain)


- La gouvernance de association (femmes et hommes)
- Adapter notre façon de faire

Training and Capacity Building



Support for the Design and Dissemination of the Training Course *Faire la ville ensemble*

 **Training and Capacity Building**

 **2021-2022**

 **www.mooc-campus.afd.fr/course/**



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CONTEXT

Developed in 2023 by the French Development Agency (AFD) in partnership with CECumene Spaces for Dignity, «Building the City Together» offers a practical and collaborative experience in urban development. This Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) was built with the aim of acquiring knowledge about innovative methods for creating sustainable and equitable urban environments. The learning journey is structured around three modules addressing themes such as citizen participation, inclusive urban planning, and the promotion of dignity within urban spaces. It caters to a wide audience, from urban development professionals to engaged citizens, offering concrete tools to contribute to the construction of supportive and harmonious cities.

OUR INTERVENTION

Africa Innovation Network provided its expertise to facilitate the development of the training program, including support in structuring the curriculum, conducting workshops, and communication. We were able to:

- Create five (05) illustrated discovery videos featuring expert interventions, each ranging from 5 to 10 minutes, serving as additional resources to enrich the modules and enhance participant understanding.
- Organize two (02) webinars on the theme «Building the City Differently» to strengthen the community of learners, consisting of both new and existing participants, specialists, educational institutions, students, researchers, etc.
- Write one (01) paper article on building the city together.
- Produce one (01) podcast on «Building the City Together: Participatory tools for urban governance, urban projects, etc.» content from the training program through expert interviews.

IMPACT

To date, the «Building the City Together» program has already trained several dozen urban development actors in Africa.



Development of a Training Module on Urban Planning Tools in the Digital Age

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 Training and Capacity Building

 2022

 www.objectif2030.org/mooc/tech



CONTEXT

Developed in partnership with the Institute of La Francophonie for Sustainable Development (IFDD), this MOOC provides an insightful dive into the realm of smart cities and technology-driven urban planning. This training program offers participants a detailed exploration of the concept of «Smart City» by presenting the challenges of innovative digital tools aimed at optimizing urban management and addressing contemporary issues related to rapid urbanization.

OUR INTERVENTION

Our contribution unfolded in three key stages: supervising speakers in creating course materials, editing and formatting training content, and developing the pedagogical plan. By employing an interactive and inductive pedagogical approach, we developed a variety of learning tools such as videos, readings, quizzes, best practice sheets, webinars, and discussion forums. Additionally, the modules were structured around four learning axes: conceptual discovery, individual-centered experiential learning, case studies and comparisons for learning by example, as well as interactive and cooperative dynamics through webinars and discussion forums.

IMPACT

Designed for urban planners, municipal officials, and development actors, this course offers essential insights into how technologies can be integrated to shape smart and resilient cities. It serves as an excellent starting point for individuals looking to learn more about smart cities and contribute to the creation of more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities. It will soon be made accessible on the IFDD platform.



Workshops and Conferences



Facilitation of Roundtable

Discussions at the MAVIL Forum: Trajectories for Cities along the Senegal River?

 Senegal

 Workshop

 2023

 **Grdr**
Migration - Citoyenneté - Développement



CONTEXT

Held in December 2023 in Saint-Louis, Senegal, the MAVIL Forum was a major event bringing together key actors in development and cooperation from the region. Focused on issues related to migration and urban development, this forum provided a platform for exchange and dialogue aimed at finding innovative solutions to the specific challenges faced by populations in the middle valley of the Senegal River. Debates addressed crucial issues such as environmental sustainability, migration dynamics, and city financing. In its 1st edition, this forum is part of the MAVIL program, launched in 2021 by the international association Grdr Migration-Citizenship-Development. The objective is to support actors in intermediate cities of Kayes (Mali), Kaédi (Mauritania), and Bakel (Senegal) to make them safer, more welcoming, sustainable, interconnected, and providing opportunities for the greatest number.

OUR INTERVENTION

During the three days of the forum (from December 12 to 14, 2023), we led two round tables focusing on the challenges of the cities of Kayes, Kaédi, and Bakel. Key recommendations highlighted the crucial importance of resident participation, especially women and youth, in the decision-making process. Better data management is needed to anticipate urban development and reduce the growth of informal areas. Additionally, the design of African cities must take into account their cultural diversities and plural dynamics.

IMPACT

Thanks to the participation of various stakeholders, including experts, NGOs, and government representatives, the MAVIL Forum facilitated the creation of partnerships and the establishment of concerted strategies to promote inclusive and sustainable development in the Saint-Louis region.

World Cities Day Talk Edition 3

 **Cameroon, Morocco, Ivory Coast**

 **Workshops and Conferences**

 **2022**

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CONTEXT

The World Cities Day Talk (WCDDT) is an annual event co-organized with the Nandhaa firm to celebrate World Cities Day. The purpose of this event is to provide a forum for discussion on the issues facing African cities. Additionally, it aims to raise awareness of the challenges of urban development in Africa and to reflect on innovative solutions that can address the identified challenges. Thus, gathered around a key theme of sustainable urbanism in Africa, city stakeholders and professionals share their knowledge and experiences.

OUR INTERVENTION

In 2022, the World Cities Day Talk was organized simultaneously in several African countries, including Cameroon, Ivory Coast, and Morocco, in collaboration with local partners such as universities, architecture schools, international organizations, institutions, and private companies. It mobilized more than 500 people. In Cameroon, the WCDDT2022 was held in Yaoundé from October 24th to 28th, 2022, under the theme «The Future of Cameroonian Cities: Acting Locally for Global Impact,» including conference debates on urban art and strategies for sustainable urban development. An art exhibition and after-work events also enriched the event.

In Morocco, the event took place in Rabat, with a conference on «Exploring New Approaches for Inclusive African Cities,» focusing on the role of the new generation in building sustainable and inclusive cities.

In Ivory Coast, the WCDDT2022 was held in Abidjan on October 13th, as part of World Architecture Day, with a panel on «City and Health» hosted by AIN in partnership with the Order of Architects and the Abidjan Architecture House.

IMPACT

Online and/or in-person, the WCDDT brings together numerous city stakeholders every year to discuss inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities in Africa. Moreover, this event also marks the launch of the African Cities Magazine.

World Cities Day Talk Edition 4

 **Cameroon**

 **Conference**

 **2023**

CONTEXT

The World Cities Day Talk (WCDDT) is an annual event co-organized with the Nandhaa firm to celebrate World Cities Day. This event aims to provide a forum for discussion on the issues facing African cities and to raise awareness of urban development challenges in Africa. It also seeks to reflect on innovative solutions that can address the identified challenges. Thus, gathered around a key theme of sustainable urbanism in Africa, city stakeholders and professionals share their knowledge and experiences.

OUR INTERVENTION

The WCDDT2023 was held on November 9, 2023, at the K Hotel in Douala, Cameroon, focusing on the theme of urban resilience. This edition took place in a context marked by the resurgence of disasters in Cameroonian cities (landslides, floods, etc.). The discussions aimed primarily to highlight the various stakeholders involved in building more resilient cities in Cameroon, the challenges they face, and the available action levers to overcome these challenges. Nearly 50 participants were engaged by the insights shared by distinguished professionals. Subsequently, the debate shifted to more cross-cutting topics contributing to urban resilience, such as land management and technological innovation.

IMPACT

Online and/or in-person, the WCDDT brings together numerous city stakeholders every year to discuss inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities in Africa. Moreover, this event is also dedicated to the launch of the African Cities Magazine.

African Cities Lab Summit 2023

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 **Morocco**

 **Workshop**

 **2023**



 **African Cities Lab**

UM6P
University
Mohammed VI
Polytechnic

CONTEXT

The African Cities Lab Summit 2023 was co-organized by the African Cities Lab, the Center of Urban Systems at Mohammed 6 Polytechnic University in Morocco, and Sèmè City in Cotonou in May 2023. This initiative aimed to create a truly collective, international, and intergenerational platform, connected and open to the world, where all stakeholders in urban development could reflect on digital and smart cities as new models for African cities. The discussions addressed topics such as data governance, data-driven urban planning, and the impact of datafication on citizens' quality of life.

OUR INTERVENTION

Within Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Ben-Guerir, AIN conducted a workshop on the challenges of governance in African cities in the digital age. The objective was to explore the implications of the digital transition of African cities and to formulate recommendations for local governments. The discussions highlighted mechanisms to mitigate the negative effects of emerging technologies. Three main challenges were identified: the digital divide, risks related to personal data, and algorithmic biases, thus emphasizing the inequalities and concerns related to citizen protection in this context.

IMPACT

The African Cities Lab Summit 2023 provided an innovative platform exploring the crucial role of data in urban development in Africa. By fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors, this summit contributed to defining innovative strategies to harness the potential of data and catalyze positive transformation in African cities. Following this event, a scientific article titled «Digital Revolution in African Cities: Exploring Governance Mechanisms to Mitigate Societal Impacts» was written and published.





Publications

CONTRIBUER
AU DÉVELOPPEMENT URBAIN
DANS LA MOYENNE VALLÉE
DU FLEUVE SÉNÉGAL
MALI • MAURITANIE • SÉNÉGAL

African Cities Magazine Edition 3

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 **Publication**

 **2022**

 **www.africinno.com/africancitiesmagazine**

CONTEXT

The African Cities Magazine, produced annually by AIN, aims to promote innovation and sustainable development in Africa in anticipation of World Cities Day. It provides a platform to co-create a shared vision of the sustainable African city. The magazine explores various topics related to urbanization, including sections such as the Special Feature, Urbanism and Innovation, Architecture and Innovation, Architectural and Urban Heritage, as well as Cities Pixels and Colors, offering a rich and diverse perspective on urban challenges and opportunities in Africa.

OUR INTERVENTION

The 2022 edition addresses questions of resilience and sustainability of cities in Africa. To this end, it first opens with the issue of financing sustainable cities in Africa with an interview of Jean-François Habeau, Executive Director of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV). The urban innovation section then follows with a wide range of innovative projects based on participation and collective creation. In order to inspire a larger audience, especially young people, this edition features a portrait of Aziza CHAOUNI, Principal architect at Aziza Chaouni Projects and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto. Finally, the magazine concludes with an overview of the main events related to African cities that took place during the year.

IMPACT

The magazine is a valuable tool for policymakers, urban professionals, and citizens interested in African cities. It provides information and ideas on how to create more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities. It also serves as an excellent way to stay informed about the latest trends in urbanism in Africa. The magazine is available for free in both English and French.



African Cities Magazine Edition 4

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 **Publication**

 **2023**

 **www.africanino.com/africancitiesmagazine**

CONTEXT

The African Cities Magazine, produced annually by AIN, aims to promote innovation and sustainable development in Africa in anticipation of World Cities Day. It provides a platform to co-create a shared vision of the sustainable African city. The magazine explores various topics related to urbanization, including sections such as the Special Feature, Urbanism and Innovation, Architecture and Innovation, Architectural and Urban Heritage, as well as Cities Pixels and Colors, offering a rich and diverse perspective on urban challenges and opportunities in Africa.

OUR INTERVENTION

Published in 2023, this edition was dedicated to Urban Mobility in African cities. This theme was notably reflected in the Special Feature section, exploring various aspects of urban mobility in Africa, including: challenges and issues related to urban mobility in Africa; the potential of digital technologies in transitioning to sustainable mobility; the importance of soft and electric mobility; gender considerations in mobility planning; the role of key stakeholders; and more. Each of these topics was addressed through a series of interviews with stakeholders engaged in sustainable mobility in Africa, as well as research articles and project articles resulting from a call for contributions.

In terms of urbanism and innovation, initiatives such as the African Cities Lab platform, which promotes knowledge sharing in urban planning, are highlighted. In terms of innovative architecture, projects such as the green and vernacular city of Mokolo, designed by CHORUS architecture firm, are presented. Additionally, a profile of the Nigerian architect Mariam Issoufou Kamara, founder of the Masomi workshop, was featured. Finally, stunning murals spread across the continent are illustrated in the magazine.



Communication and audiovisual production



Production of educational videos for the Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable

 **Audiovisual Production**
 **2022**
 **www.objectif2030.org/mooc/tech**



CONTEXT

Following the production of the course on urban planning tools in the digital age, IFDD entrusted AIN with a project to produce 11 additional training video modules with teachers located in Cameroon.

OUR INTERVENTION

Our intervention involved mobilizing 11 experts/teachers for the filming and establishing a precise schedule. We produced 11 training modules, each consisting of five videos, totaling 55 videos divided into five sequences per module.

This achievement was made possible by an operational filming team from August to December 2022, in the cities of Yaoundé, Ouagadougou, and Belgium, including script editors, logistical and technical supervisors, as well as videographers. We also provided material resources such as a studio equipped with two professional cameras, lighting equipment, and sound equipment to ensure the quality of the recordings.



Media Partner for the Finance in Common Summit 2022

 **Communication and audiovisual production**

 **2022**

 **Ivory Coast**

 **www.objectif2030.org/mooc/tech**



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



BANQUE OUEST AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT



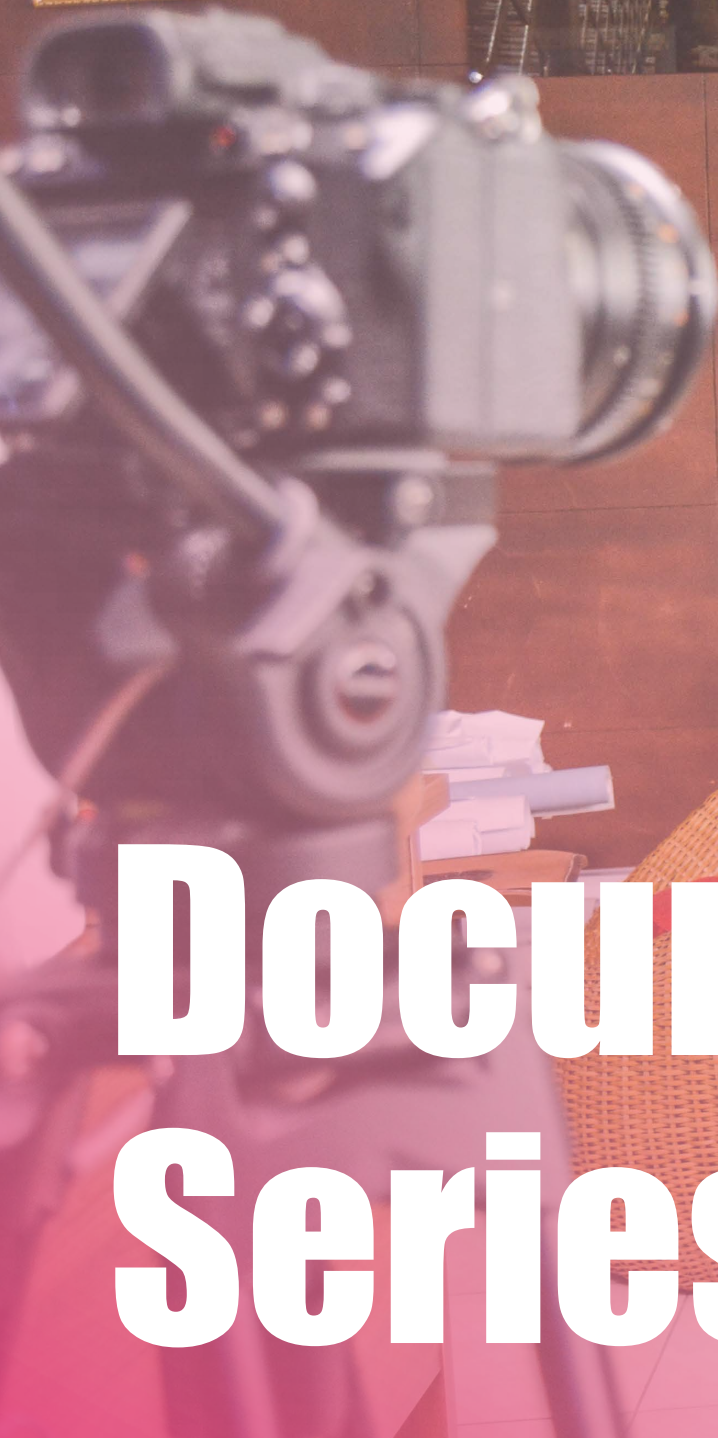
CONTEXT

The Finance in Common Summit 2022, held in Abidjan from October 18th to 20th, 2022, brought together stakeholders from around the world to discuss financial issues related to sustainable development. The discussions revolved around the theme «A Green and Just Transition for Sustainable Recovery.» Political leaders, representatives from the private sector, and experts in finance, development, and the environment were present to debate the challenges and opportunities of transitioning to a more sustainable economy in Africa, as well as ways to finance this transition.

OUR INTERVENTION

As part of our collaboration with FMDV, a key player in promoting collaboration between financial institutions for sustainable urban projects, our mission was to promote the summit to various stakeholders. We coordinated the preparation and conduct of the event, with a focus on communication and video production. Through continuous communication, we disseminated key highlights and outcomes of the summit, including the signing of a joint declaration mobilizing \$100 billion for the green transition in Africa by 2030, the adoption of a new framework for green finance in Africa, and the establishment of an investment fund to support green transition projects in Africa.





Documentary Series



African Cities Round Tour

Cameroon



Documentary Series

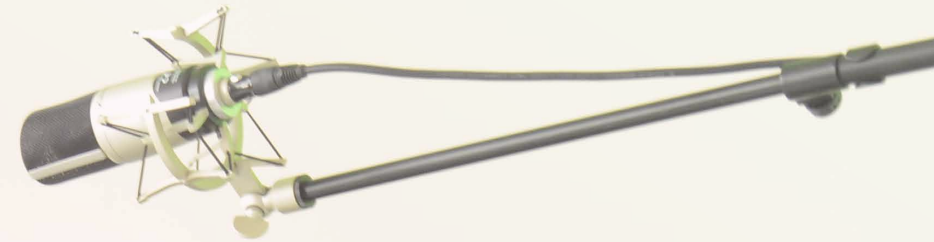


2022



www.africanno.com/africancitiesroundtour

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CONTEXT

African Cities Round Tour is a documentary series produced by AIN aimed at giving a voice to urban development stakeholders in Africa. It is also a platform for exchange and sharing of knowledge where key city actors such as urban planners, architects, entrepreneurs, and citizens, etc., are invited to share a common vision of the African city of tomorrow. To date, two seasons have been produced, notably in Cameroon and Ivory Coast.

OUR INTERVENTION

Produced in 2021, this first edition addresses the major challenges of urbanization in Cameroonian cities through the lens of various stakeholders. As an introduction, an analysis of the historical evolution of Cameroonian cities is conducted, following the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial eras. This is followed by a descriptive analysis of the Cameroonian urban framework based on current legislation and demographic evolution. The analysis of these different aspects leads to the identification of specific challenges and issues facing Cameroonian metropolises, notably Yaoundé and Douala, such as urban congestion, project funding deficits, and climate change. In addition, the issue of vernacular architecture is addressed for its innovative character. Similarly, current urban policies are scrutinized to understand their impact on urbanization. Beyond governance issues, economic, environmental, and social challenges are also addressed. Finally, emphasis is placed on the role of innovation and technological development in establishing more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive cities in Cameroon.

IMPACT

The African Cities Round Tour series is broadcast in many African countries on various platforms. It contributes to raising public awareness of the challenges of urban development in Africa.



African Cities Round Tour Ivory

Coast



Documentary Series



2022



www.africanno.com/africancitiesroundtour

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CONTEXT

«African Cities Round Tour» is a documentary series produced by AIN aimed at giving voice to urban development actors in Africa. It also serves as a platform for exchange and sharing of knowledge where key city stakeholders such as urban planners, architects, entrepreneurs, and citizens are invited to share a common vision of the African city of tomorrow. To date, two seasons have been produced, notably in Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire.

OUR INTERVENTION

The «African Cities Round Tour Côte d'Ivoire» was produced in 2022 with the aim of deciphering Ivorian cities in terms of urban dynamism, economic impact at the local and regional levels, as well as negative externalities due to climate change and other factors.

The idea was to identify elements specific to this context that could serve as leverage to make cities more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable. In this regard, various topics were addressed, including the history of their evolution, the typology of cities and their characteristics, the specific challenges of major metropolises, the importance of vernacular architecture, the impact of urban policies, etc.

These exchanges revealed that by exploring these central questions one by one, it is possible to build a model of Ivorian cities of tomorrow that meets the needs of citizens, promoting their full development and better use of resources.

IMPACT

The «African Cities Round Tour» series is broadcasted in many African countries on various platforms. It contributes to raising awareness among the general public about the challenges of urban development in Africa.



LA POSTE
LA POSTE

AMSA
RESOURCES

10 815
Rue
de la
Liberté
18-20

UNO

SALESISCE

POLICE PREMIERE
QUARTIER 200
LUM
QUARTIER 200
POLICE 200
LANGUIE DE BARRI

BOULEVARD
DE LA
LIBERTÉ

WEEGOU
MANGALA



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